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#1 DAILY NEWSPAPER IN CENTER CITY

HOTEL 101: HAVE A NICE STAY {page 35}

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Black Friday G

▶ When it comes to Black Friday shopping, Santa has nothing on our gift guide. {pages 13-28}

Beat Santa to Macy's this Friday

Despite 144 attacks since 2011, no relief on city buses

Transit agencies in NJ, NYC installing shields for bus drivers ◗ Attacks on NJ Transit already dropped sharply ◗ SEPTA taking wait-and-see approach {page 02}

the word

The Rihanna jet becomes a crazy train

Our embedded journalist gets the naked truth on exactly what is going down {page 09}

Style: Getting back in black {page 10}

Put Andy Reid out of our misery {page 30}

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In the news

74

Percent jump in real estate value for multi-unit residential buildings per unit in Philadelphia since a low point in 2008, according to Real Capital Analytics Inc., the third highest climb among cities behind only Miami and Baltimore. METRO

In the news

"I'm going to keep going at it. I won't back away."

GOV. TOM CORBETT, TO REPORTERS MONDAY ON HIS ADMINISTRATION'S GOAL TO PRIVATIZE THE STATE-CONTROLLED SPIRITS AND BEER INDUSTRY

In the news

Homeless martial artist attacks cop

CENTER CITY. A SEPTA police officer was attacked at a Broad Street Subway station Monday by a person who appeared mentally ill, officials said. The attack happened around 10 a.m. at the Walnut-Locust Station. The officer was on the northbound platform when a man allegedly began assaulting the officer unprovoked using martial arts, according to SEPTA spokesperson Andrew Busch.

Two SEPTA officers arrived on the scene and helped to subdue the attacker, who was taken into custody. Busch said the suspect appeared to be mentally ill and possibly homeless. Officials have not released his name.

The officer was not injured, Busch said. METRO

Clean gas rules waived by feds

NEW JERSEY. The Environmental Protection Agency has extended its emergency waivers for clean fuel rules for New Jersey and the New York City area as damage from Hurricane Sandy continues to prevent fuel distribution in the hard-hit region. The waivers had been set to expire on Nov. 20. The EPA said it will continue to waive clean gasoline and diesel requirements for the area until Dec. 7. REUTERS

City park gets cash for overhaul

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA. State and local officials broke ground yesterday for a $4.7 million improvement project at Benjamin Rush State Park.

The improvements will include a new entrance, additional parking, a bike and pedestrian trail, restroom renovations, informational kiosks and new signage.

Construction is expected to be completed next spring. METRO

Philly bus drivers left vulnerable at the wheel

SEPTA waiting to decide on protective shields that other agencies like NJ Transit have already installed ◗ Assaults dropped steeply on NJ buses

While making the last stop on the Route K bus at Ridge and Midvale a few months, a female passenger walked up to Robin, called her a b—, and then without warning proceeded to spit on her and punch her in the face.

"I was really nervous, shaken up," recalled the SEPTA operator, who has been on the job less than two years and declined to give her last name. "When the passengers are standing close to me or right behind me, I'm always aware and looking in my mirror at what they're doing because I don't know if they're going to assault me either."

Robin is among 67 SEPTA operators assaulted this year, compared to 77 a year ago.

SEPTA implemented mandatory deescalation training for operators last year after a rash of assaults, but Transportation Workers Union Local 234 President John Johnson argued that training cannot help in all instances, such as Robin's case.

"If the attack is unprovoked and you have no idea it's going to happen, how do you deescalate it?" Johnson questioned.

Several transit agencies have responded to the nationwide rise in attacks on operators by installing clear plastic shields that insulate drivers from passengers. NJ Transit is installing the shields on 820 buses after completing a pilot program and New York City's Metropolitan Transportation Authority is installing the shields on its entire fleet of 5,600 buses. SEPTA Director of System Safety James Fox said the authority has considered the idea, but wants to see the outcomes of the programs in New Jersey and New York before making the investment on its 1,400-bus fleet.

"We really think that though the shield has some value, [we want to see] whether the shield does what it's supposed to do," Fox said last week. He also mentioned concerns about the cost to retrofit buses and the impact on customer service.

25

Number of operator assaults on NJ Transit through October, compared to 60 in 2010. The agency recently approved a $1.8 million deal to retrofit 820 buses with protective shields.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ A bus driver assaulted this year says she's now "always aware and looking in my mirror" at nearby passengers.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us

Union to talk to SEPTA

Johnson said he plans to talk with SEPTA about purchasing shields and wants to "explore every option that's available" to protect operators.

COURTESY OF NJ TRANSIT

▶ NJ Transit drivers are now shielded by this protective plastic shield.

Official: Bus shields only part of solution

The head of the Amalgamated Transit Union, which represents thousands of mass transit operators, said bus shields are just part of what needs to be done to enhance protection for operators.

"If you really want to solve the problem, the solution would be top-flight communications; developing shields into new bus design; bigger, better work stations for drivers; and getting police assigned," ATU President Larry Hanley said.

SEPTA said it has increased police patrols on its vehicles in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police Department in order to help deter crimes from being committed. METRO/SDL

Quoted

"As SEPTA wants to make sure their employees and ridership are protected, our position is we want to make sure our membership is protected." JOHNSON

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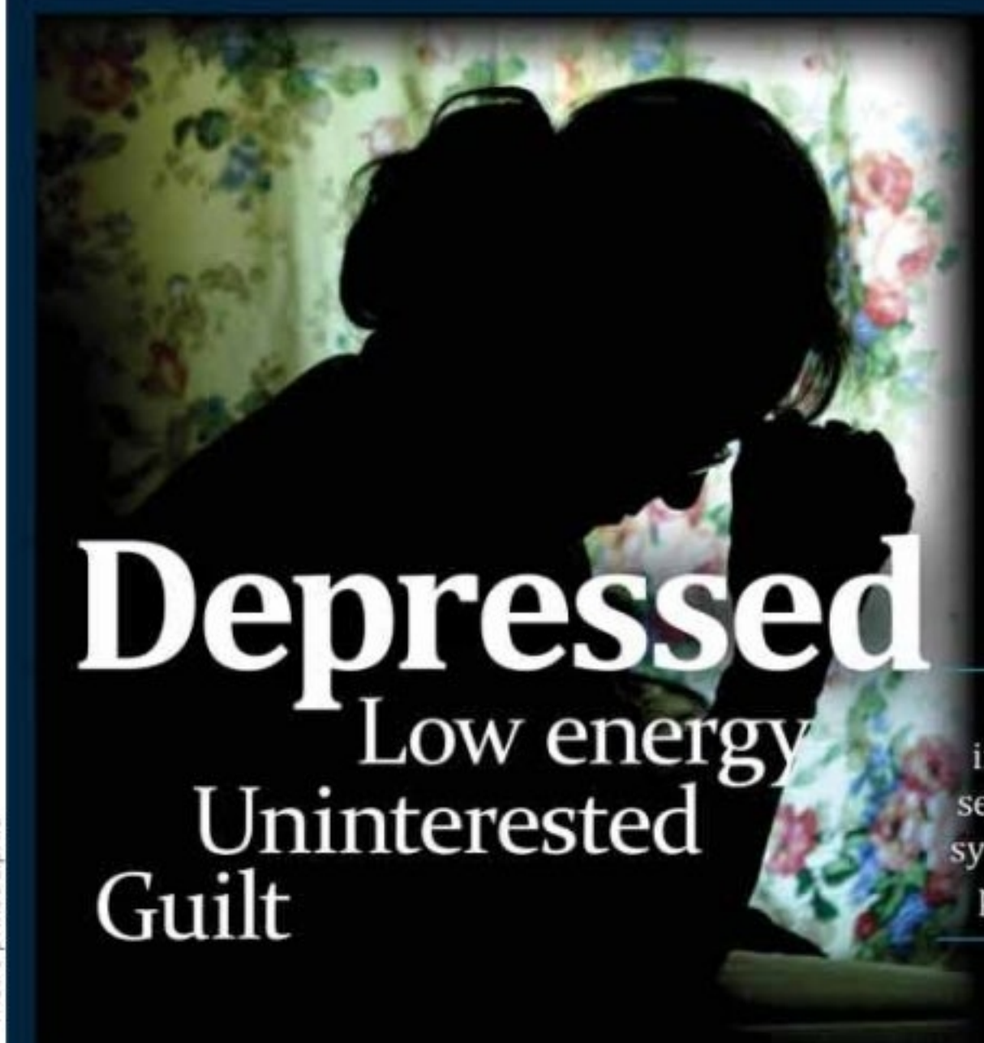

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Post-Sandy, Christie making new friends

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie comforted Alice Cimillo whose home was damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie paced the Princetonian Diner on U.S. Route 1 in mid-October, imploring patrons to pick his Republican ally and friend Joe Kyrillos over incumbent Democratic U.S. Senator Robert Menendez.

Just two weeks later, Hurricane Sandy slammed into the U.S. East Coast, decimating New Jersey's shoreline, crippling mass transit and cutting power to 8.5 million homes and businesses in 21 states. Eight days after the biggest Atlantic storm in history, Menendez coasted to an 18 percentage-point victory over Kyrillos, a 20-year veteran of the state senate who was chairman of Christie's 2009 gubernatorial campaign.

In an instant, Sandy also reshaped New Jersey politics. It prompted Christie to seek help from Menendez and Democratic U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, whom he once called an "embarrassment to the state" during a two-year feud. And it led him to praise President Barack Obama repeatedly on national television, angering some Republicans who called it a betrayal.

"What a difference a couple of weeks can make," Lautenberg said. "This is no time for pitchforks; it's a time for shovels. I'm frankly pleased with the way he's handled this."

The governor, who has battled Democrats in control of the legislature over spending and tax cuts, pledged to avoid partisan politics during rebuilding and promised to seek federal assistance to defray the costs.

BLOOMBERG

Federal cash

Christie and the state's delegation to the House and Senate are scheduled to meet tomorrow in Trenton to craft a strategy for garnering federal money, Lautenberg said.

The governor may find Menendez and Lautenberg to be indispensable allies. The two senators said on Nov. 15 that they have expedited $25 million of funding owed to New Jersey Transit.

▶ Sen. Robert Menendez

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children's scholarship fund PHILADELPHIA

Obama offers praise, pressure on historic trip

GETTY IMAGES

▶ President Obama and Aung San Suu Kyi

Barack Obama became the first American president to visit Myanmar yesterday, using a six-hour trip to balance U.S. praise for the government's progress in shaking off military rule with pressure to complete the process of democratic reform.

Obama, greeted by enthusiastic crowds in the former capital, Yangon, met President Thein Sein, a former junta member who has spearheaded reforms since taking office in March 2011, and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I recognize that this is just the first steps on what will be a long journey, but we think that a process of democratic reform and economic reform here in Myanmar ... can lead to incredible development opportunities here," Obama said, using the country name preferred by the government and former junta, rather than Burma, which is used in the United States.

REUTER

The trip

Obama's Southeast Asian trip was aimed at showing how serious he is about shifting the U.S. strategic focus eastward as America winds down wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The so-called "Asia pivot" is also meant to counter China's rising influence.

In the news

Fitch report: Fiscal cliff could push jobless rate

The so-called fiscal cliff could trigger a second recession, a 2-percent decline in GDP to flat 0.4-percent growth and increased unemployment to upwards of 10 percent, all of which would dramatically affect demand for U.S. transportation assets, according to a new report by Fitch Ratings. 'Given the far-reaching effects of the fiscal cliff, it is not expected that Congress will allow these tax and spending cuts to take effect. But were it to occur, the effect on airports, roads, tunnels and bridges could be significant and could pressure ratings,' said Michel McDermott, managing director and head of the U.S. transportation team. **REUTERS**

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In the news

Just what did he know and when?

How much New York Times CEO Mark Thompson knew about a sex abuse scandal involving an entertainer at the BBC, when Thompson was its director general, was questioned again yesterday. On Oct. 13, Thompson said he had never received complaints about Jimmy Savile. Yet it emerged in August Thompson threatened to sue a U.K. newspaper for alleging Savile had abused children. METRO

Home for the holidays

Raising the roof

Housing recovery gains traction

Home resales rose in October and a gauge of homebuilder sentiment climbed to a six-year high in November, signs of surprising vigor in the country's still-struggling housing market.

The National Association of Realtors said yesterday that existing home sales climbed 2.1 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.79 million units, beating forecasts by Wall Street economists.

Separately, strengthening demand for new homes drove an increase in a monthly measure of home builder sentiment, which hit a more than six-year high in November, topping even the most optimistic forecast in a Reuters poll of analysts.

Rising home prices and a faster pace of sales have shown the housing market has finally turned the corner this year. The market collapsed when a mortgage debt bubble burst in 2006, helping trigger the 2007-09 recession. REUTERS

Banking on relief

Banks provide $22B in mortgage relief

Five U.S. banks have provided about $22 billion in mortgage relief to customers under a deal to settle borrowers' accusations over foreclosures, a report by the settlement's monitor said yesterday. The report said Bank of America Corp., which owes the most, improved in delivering first-lien mortgage modifications to customers, trailing only JPMorgan Chase & Co. through September. Bank of America provided $889.2 million in first-lien modifications to reduced loan balances for consumers. JPMorgan's total was $903.1 million in modifications. REUTERS

$22B Total in customer relief provided by the five banks

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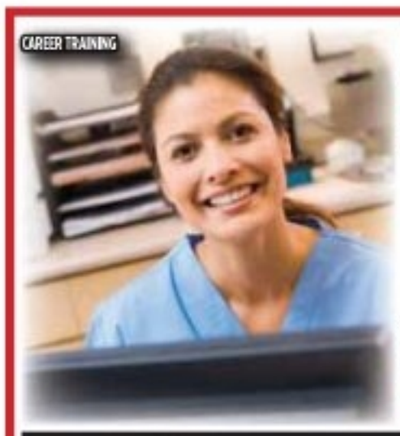

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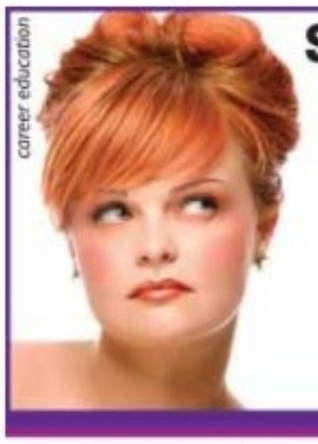

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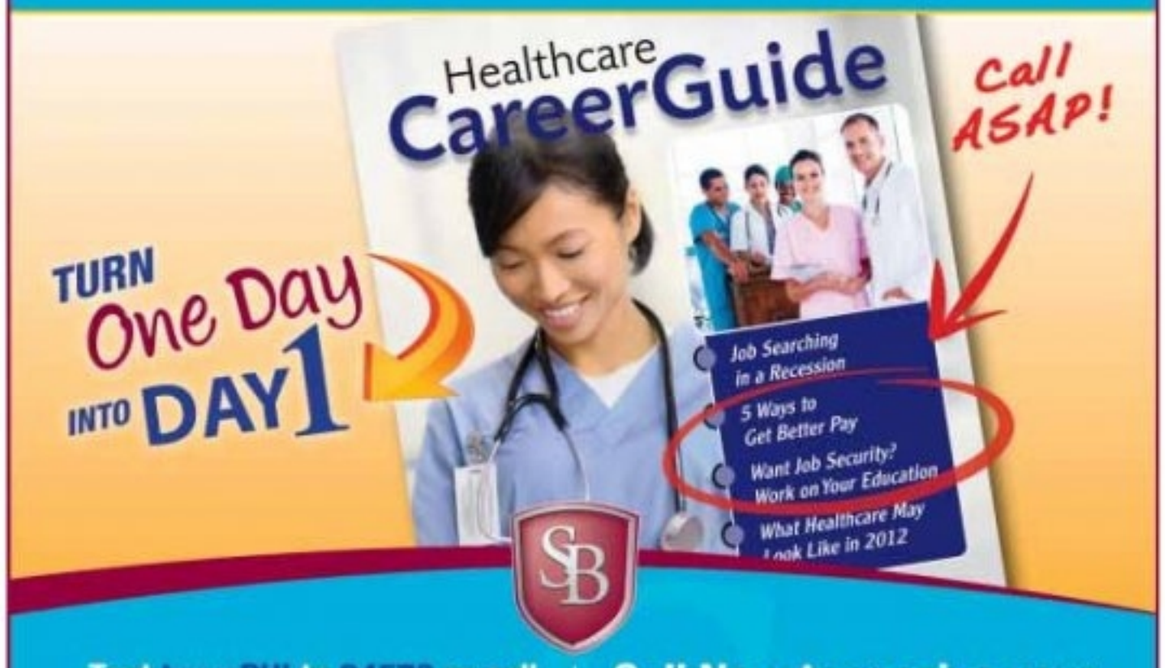
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Education in brief

Big names to offer online courses

Duke University, Brandeis University and the University of Notre Dame are among a group of 10 U.S. colleges that will offer Internet-based courses next year as part of a new program called Semester Online.

Beginning in fall of 2013, undergraduate students will be able to take online courses for credit from the consortium through a so-called virtual classroom. Semester Online will give students the chance to take classes for credit at any of the universities in the group, which also include Emory University, Northwestern University and Vanderbilt University. The courses will offer the same faculty and curricula as regular classes.

Semester Online will be operated by 2U Inc., an education-technology startup. Washington University in St. Louis, the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, the University of Rochester and Wake Forest University are also in the group.

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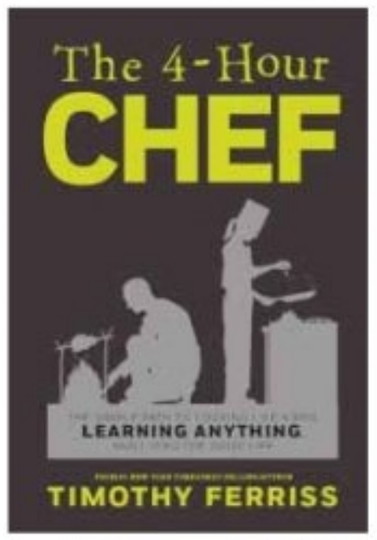
The art of learning

Want to speak a second language, up your golf game or get ahead at work? Author Tim Ferriss shows you how to learn and live better



GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ferriss' new book on learning is "The 4-Hour Chef."

Advice

DAN SCHAWBEL

PERSONALBRANDINGBLOG.COM

If you want a successful career, you have to become an expert in your field. The biggest challenge with establishing expertise is learning the right skills. I recently spoke to Tim Ferriss about the art of learning based on his research and experiences. Ferriss is a New York Times best-seller and dubbed "The Superman of Silicon Valley" by Wired. His latest book is "The 4-Hour Chef: The Simple Path to Cooking Like a Pro, Learning Anything, and Living the Good Life."

What are the common misconceptions of learning?

One of the bigger misconceptions of learning is that many skills take a lifetime to get world-class at, or 10,000 hours to become world-class at. If you want to be Tiger Woods at age 8, you're going to know you have the potential because you'll be drawing sketches of people hitting balls with different irons, which he was, instead of pirate ships. But, if you want to be the best in your circle of friends or in the top 5 percent in the U.S. population at golf, swimming, Spanish, Japanese, whatever it might be, I firmly believe that you can accomplish that in most cases in six months or less. To be functionally fluent in a language, for instance, you need about 1,200 words. If you really train someone well, they can acquire 200 to 300 words a day, which means that in a week they can acquire the vocabulary necessary to speak a language.

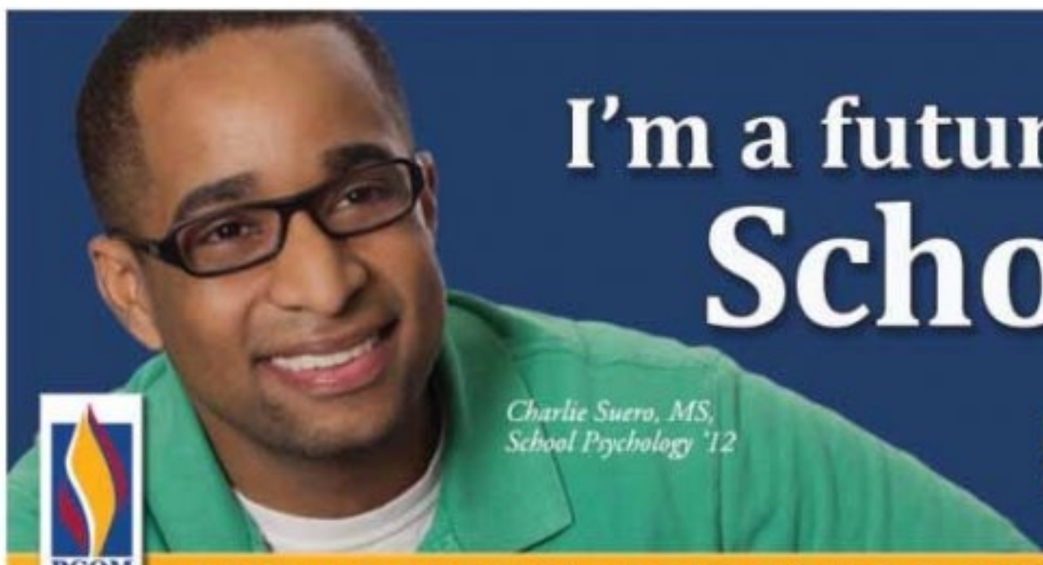
How do you become self-sufficient in your trade?

There was a lot I was doing in the digital world of computers but I didn't have the ability to build things with my hands and I got really anxious. I felt like I had lost some really important part of my humanness. Food became a way of becoming self-sufficient with my hands to regain manual literacy, which I think has been lost on our generation and certainly younger generations. Very few people can actually make things with their hands.

What are the most important career-related skills?

I would break it down to three things: time management, written communication and negotiation. I think those three skills determine much of success in the modern professional world.

*— **Dan Schawbel** is a Gen Y career expert, the founder of Millennial Branding and the author of Me 2.0.*



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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Rihanna's 777 tour: The rebel journos are getting restless

MARC PIASECKI/FILMMAGIC

▶ Rihanna is shown here arriving at Roissy Airport in France. Apparently she hasn't been seen that many other times by the people traveling with her.

Rihanna's 777 tour — in which she's traveling to seven cities in seven days, with a plane full of fans and journalists — reached London yesterday morning on the second-to-last stop. But there was no sign of the superstar on the plane from Berlin.

"Just one quote," chanted desperate reporters, begging Rihanna to appear.

Then things got a little "Lord of the Flies." **Tim Dormer**, an Australian radio presenter at Nova in Sydney, decided if he wasn't going to get a story, he'd become one: After 3 a.m., he suddenly burst from the toilet, completely naked. With his long curls bouncing, he made a quick tour of economy class wearing nothing but his birthday suit. The audience cheered.

Since Rihanna wasn't around to talk to anyone, we asked the streaker:

What were you thinking?
I was bored. It was 3 in the morning and we were on a plane and we've been on a plane for the past five days. I thought it would be fun. And it wasn't an easy task either; I had to dive over people.

Did you plan the whole thing?
No, I was just in the bathroom and thought it would be a fun thing.

How many will see this on YouTube, do you think?
Five, maybe? My mom, my dad, my gran, my boss and hopefully Rihanna. *[Editors' note: At press time the video had about 11,000 hits.]*

Did you run all the way up to her?
No, I didn't get that far.

How do you find the trip so far?
I'm having the time of my life. I saw her the first day and I see her on stage every night.

— Only one concert remains on Rihanna's 777 tour: New York tonight! Metro's Katarina Matsson has followed in the superstar's footsteps, on her jet, at the concerts and parties — one of the few reporters allowed on the plane.

The trend that needs to stop: Harem pants

The collaboration between **MC Hammer** and **Psy** on Sunday night's American Music Awards was amazing. Their harem pants, not so much. What is going on with their — and **Justin Bieber**'s — drawers? Aren't they worried about tripping? Don't their thighs chafe in the cold weather? Are they be hiding something in there? Small animals? Write in to let me know.

▶ Bieber

▶ Please, Hammer (and Psy): Don't wear 'em.

Talking points

Stewart on; Sanders, not so much

Kristen Stewart has reportedly signed on to star in the sequel to "Snow White and the Huntsman" — though the second film in the franchise won't be directed by **Rupert Sanders**, with whom Stewart infamously had an affair this summer, according to Radar Online. "The script has already been written and production will begin late next year," a source close to the production says. "However, Rupert Sanders definitely won't be a part of the project. Rupert didn't want to be a part of it to begin with because he is desperately still trying to save his marriage. The search is on for a new director."

▶ Stewart and Sanders

Does Kate have a bun in the oven?

A close friend of **Prince William** and **Kate Middleton** insists the royal couple is set to announce something big next month, prompting speculation that a baby is on the way. "They're planning to make an announcement in December," said **Jessica Hay**, a former schoolmate of Middleton's. "William and Kate are focused on starting a family."

Bieber's date to the AMAs? His mom

Justin Bieber may be newly single, but that didn't mean he had to attend the American Music Awards solo. Instead, the 18-year-old Canadian pop star showed up with his mom, 38-year-old **Pattie Mallette**. While he made no mention of his split from **Selena Gomez**, Bieber did address his critics after winning his first award of the night, for Favorite Pop/Rock Male Artist. "I want to say this is for all the haters who thought I was just here for one or two years," Bieber said. "I feel like I'm going to be here for a very long time."

2

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Ricky Martin is a fan of astrology, Samantha Ronson is getting literary, One Direction's Niall Horan has already been up for hours and Chris Colfer is using his powers for good.

@ricky_martin
You want real advice, straight with no chasers and not sugar coated? Call a #Capricorn.

@samantharonson
"Work is the curse of the drinking class." Oscar Wilde

@NiallOfficial
Good morning everyone! Was an early start today ! Tired

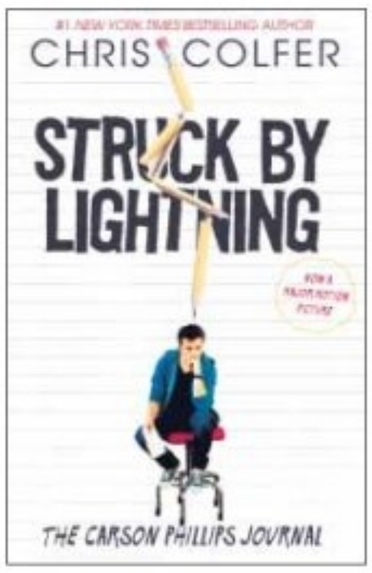
@chriscolfer
For the record, we're filming at a fancy engineering college and I hacked into the lecture hall computer to play honey badger on the screen.

Samantha Ronson

entertainment&style

Chris Colfer has all the luck

Golden Globe-winning actor. New York Times best-selling author. Named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People. Not bad for a 22-year-old. And now Chris Colfer is stepping up his game with "Struck by Lightning," a film he wrote in high school and stars in, due out in January. It's also the title of Colfer's second novel, out today, written as the journal of the film's main character, Carson Phillips.



Turning a screenplay into a book seems like kind of a backward adaptation.

Oh, it totally was. It was really a very unique process. I wrote the screenplay, and the way the screenplay is formatted compared to the way the movie was edited is completely different. There are many scenes that were cut — well, there were many scenes that had to be cut because we couldn't afford to film them.

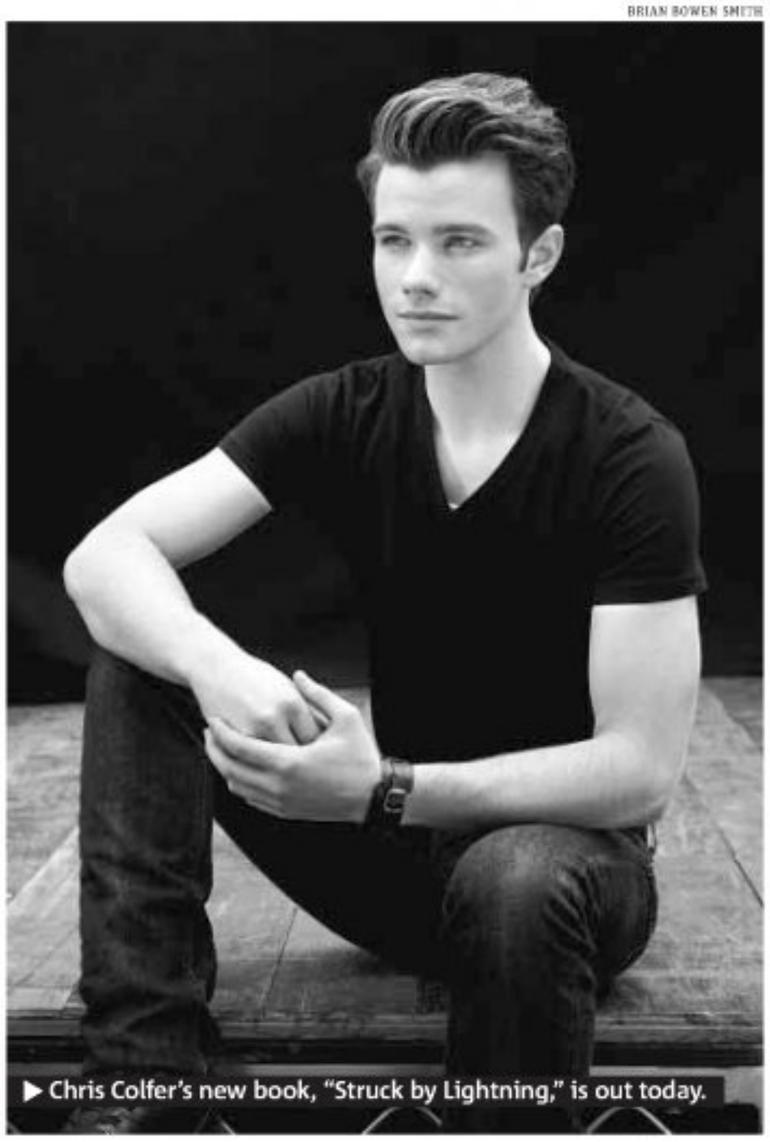
How do you want readers to experience the book as opposed to movie viewers?

The journal takes place over the course of his last few months alive and the movie takes place back and forth between his life and after his death. I think the journal offers an inside look into everything that was going on in his head at the time — pursuing his goals and blackmailing his peers.

About that blackmailing: Did you worry about including dark material like that, considering the stances you've taken on causes like bullying?

Not really. Everyone really has me on a very big role-model pedestal. But they forget that before I was a role model thanks to "Glee," I was an actor. I don't think I'm ever going to worry about material that I create or portray that might affect my role-model status. I'm always very cautious about things I say in interviews and how I present myself, but I don't think I'll ever be persuaded not to do a project or not write because I'm worried that people might think less of me.

BRIAN BOWEN SMITH



▶ Chris Colfer's new book, "Struck by Lightning," is out today.

Your résumé is quite impressive, as you're only 22 years old. Do you know something that the rest of us don't about how much time we have left?

No. [Laughs] And I swear to God, I don't have people helping me. I write everything authentically myself and by myself, and I don't really like working with other people. I don't think I can be creative with someone else. But I think it's just drive. I've always had this burning need to be a storyteller. Every since I was a kid, it's what I love to do the most — create worlds and create characters.

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

TV watch list

'American Masters: Inventing David Geffen'

DOCUMENTARY. An impresario of the music (Joni Mitchell, Guns N' Roses), movie ("American Beauty," "A Beautiful Mind") and theater ("Cats," "Dreamgirls") worlds, David Geffen receives a tribute from friends and colleagues who love and sometimes even loathe the hardworking man. As the story of a man who became an entertainment mastermind unfolds, one thing becomes clear: Everyone respects this guy. **8 p.m., PBS**

'Happy Endings'

COMEDY. What's the gang thankful for? The season of "The Real World" that never made it to air. Apparently, that's where Max and Brad met. **9 p.m., ABC**

'New Girl'

COMEDY. Jess tries to reunite her divorced mom (Jamie Lee Curtis) and dad (Rob Reiner), "Parent Trap"-style, when they visit for Thanksgiving. **9 p.m., Fox**

AMBER RAY

Black magic woman

Maybe it was a Lisbeth Salander crush that led so many designers to show badass all-black leather looks on the fall runway Whether you're wearing a full-length jacket, dress or just some trims here and there, channel your dark side this season

▶ DKNY Fall 2012

GETTY IMAGES

Zara faux leather leggings, $80, www.zara.com

DKNYC Short Sleeve Faux Leather Top, $90, www.bloomingdales.com

Topshop premium leather skirt, $300, www.topshop.com

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

Velvet Wiley faux leather dress, $196, http://shop.velvet-tees.com

Maison Martin Margiela for H&M leather jacket, $249, www.hm.com

Banana Republic leather bow bracelet, $25, www.bananarepublic.com

New release

'Who Lives Here?' / 'What Happens Next?'

By: Nicola Davies
Illustrated by: Marc Boutavant

Nicola Davies is not only a children's book author, but she's a zoologist to boot. Her inventive text paired with Boutavant's bold, retro designs of wide-eyed creatures and their "flip the flap" interactive pages will have your toddler mesmerized.

DOROTHY ROBINSON

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Letters

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GOP not going Green any time soon

RE: "SWEEP THE DUST OFF THE FISCAL CLIFF" (METRO, NOV. 19)

Letter writer Pas Argenio appears to think that losing a close election to an incumbent president equals the complete decimation of the entire losing political party. This despite the fact that the Republican Party still controls the House of Representatives. President Obama carried 26 states and Mitt Romney carried 24 — hardly a party-ending loss. In fact, historically speaking, Romney put up one of the closest challenges to an incumbent president in history. The House is considered the closest representation of the people, since each member is required to be elected every two years. Surprisingly, that is not the most ridiculous thing he writes. The idea that the Republican Party will be replaced by the Green "Party" actually made me smile for the first time since Ohio was called for Obama.

KEVIN METZ, VIA E-MAIL

Checks and balances aren't just financial terms

For everyone who is disappointed in the results of the presidential election, it doesn't matter who is elected to be the president because the power to make laws resides in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The president has limited powers according to the United States Constitution. Congress has allowed him to usurp his powers. We must keep in contact with our elected officials. We have elected them to office and they are supposed to represent us. We must trim down the size of the federal government, otherwise future generations will inherit our massive federal debt.

JANET MCCARTHY, VIA E-MAIL

Romney's mouth is Obama's real gift

In his diatribe against the voters who reelected President Obama, Romney forgot to mention that Obama also received 67 percent of the Jewish vote and 73 percent of the Asian vote.

Vermont, the whitest state in the union, gave Obama his widest margin of victory. Are all these people waiting for gifts from Obama? Romney alienated voters with his disdainful remarks about 47 percent of the American population. It is no wonder he lost the election.

CAROLYN CASEY, VIA E-MAIL

Charity both import and export in US

RE: "TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN NEEDY FIRST" (METRO, NOV. 14)

In response to letter writer Frank St. George's idea to postpone all foreign aid until America has recovered from Sandy, consider this: I was in Britain on Sept. 11, 2001 and the reaction there was truly overwhelming; millions of people from wealthy businessmen signing checks to little kids sacrificing their pocket money all in the hope that they could make things better for America — Britain was not alone in this endeavor, most other countries acted likewise, so I have every reason to believe that the world has reacted with empathy and generosity on this occasion too.

JAYNE EISAN, VIA E-MAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Enjoy the day, but be sure to pace yourself wisely when involved in any kind of activity that draws upon your physical and emotional energies.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Stand up for your rights if and when you feel you're not getting a fair shake. Reasonable adjustments can be made, but they won't happen without your vociferous input.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You're usually not overly concerned about who is running the show as long as they are doing a good job — which is OK. However, if you feel you can do a better job, jump in.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** In all probability, you'll have the wherewithal to derive huge benefits from something that appears to have little or no promise. You'll recognize its hidden worth.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Be sure to include in your social plans some old friends with whom you'll be at ease. They'll be delighted to know that you still think of them as special.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** You might not make the biggest splash, but people will know when you jump into the pool.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Knowledge is power, and what you have to offer could be of tremendous value to your colleagues. Don't let them think your wisdom is up for grabs -- make them pay for it.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Changes need not be challenging. Instead, handled properly, they could work for your benefit. Utilize these kinds of conditions to turn a negative into a positive.

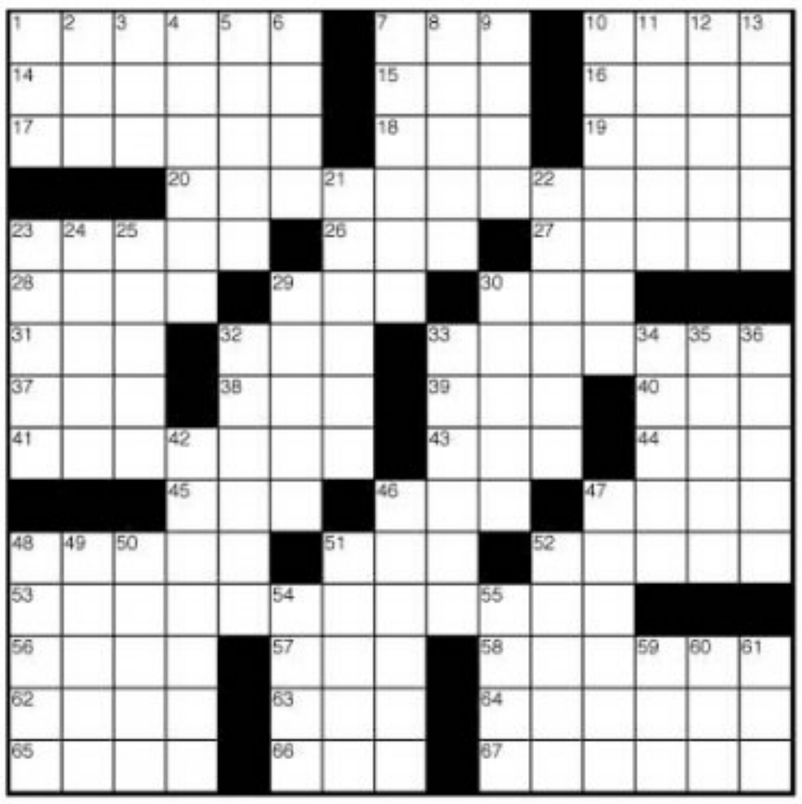
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Although you might try to avoid making a decision about something that you're unsure of, what you should do is act in the manner your best judgment dictates.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Because your productive and constructive motives are so strong, you should be able to realize any ambitious objective want. You're in a brief cycle in which you can achieve your dreams.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You'll make a welcome addition to any team effort. This is especially true for a type of activity that involves both chance and competition.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** It is important that you have plenty of staying power and not be deterred by any challenges. In fact, it's when the finish line is in sight that you'll blossom the most.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
1 Curtain trim
7 Interest amt.
10 Not defy
14 Mechanic's concern
15 Zoologists' mouths
16 "— Ha'i"
17 Eye surface
18 Cold mo.
19 Word in a telegram
20 Optical instrument
23 Gourmet delicacy
26 Two of a kind
27 Ditties
28 Show up
29 Outer edge
30 Teeth-chattering sound
31 PFC mail drop
32 Understood
33 Flavor coffee
37 Resinous deposit
38 Lime cooler
39 Orders for dinner
40 Bikini half
41 Trudged along
43 Hosp. workers
44 Fay's role in "King Kong"
45 Narcissus' flaw
46 Moo companion
47 Small brown bird
48 Plenty
51 Kyoto cash
52 Smart-alecky
53 Hotel amenity (2 wds.)
56 Livy's "it was"
57 Feel grateful
58 Subcontractor
62 Ceremony
63 Tolerate
64 Not plain
65 Steel- — boots
66 RB gains
67 Raised a brood

Down
1 Muscle used in push-ups
2 The Plastic — Band
3 Ball club VIP
4 Little finger
5 NBA's Shaquille
6 Ground corn
7 Speaker's platform
8 Ism
9 Tex-Mex snack
10 Little known
11 Conductor's need
12 Split to join
13 Cry of surprise
21 Blue-penciled
22 Rat-race result
23 Sell hot tickets
24 Prickly pear
25 BP acquisition
29 Cheyenne meet
30 Safari boss
32 Gizmo
33 Minimized
34 Ski lifts (hyph.)
35 Ocean birds
36 Au pair
42 Cleaned the cache
46 Tams
47 Horse-pulled vehicles
48 Sidestep
49 Writer — Puzo
50 Piece of china
51 Swung off-course
52 Sound of slumber
54 Many, in combos
55 Hematite yield
59 Portly
60 Summer, in Savoie
61 Embarrassed

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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	8	7					3	
			2	8	4			7
	7			9			5	
6			5	7	3			
	5					9	8	
3								4
7		9	8			3		5

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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black friday guide

Advice

Shop with a plan on Black Friday

Black Friday is a delicate balancing act between scoring as many great deals as possible and not turning into a crazed shopping Grinch. It's not a day for amateurs, so we hit up Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief of Gifts.com, for some expert tips on saving money and sanity.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Only the strong survive Black Friday: Don't head into this without a strategy — and snacks.

Buy thoughtful gifts, not cheap stuff: It's hard to say no to a great sale, but don't just buy cashmere scarves because they're half-off for another hour. "Remember that a great deal isn't always a great gift," says Holmes. "Make sure you have a list of who you're shopping for, a budget for each person and some ideas for each person. I like to put some adjectives next to their names along with some of their favorite stores to stay focused."

Bum a ride: "I'm a big advocate for carpooling," says Holmes. "Go with your shopping buddies and you can save a parking space and gas, which is a hot commodity right now." Not to mention, it's nice to have company in the parking-garage traffic — because oh, yes, that is a real thing that happens.

Cross-check for online deals: Some deals, such as door-busters, are strictly in-store offers. But increasingly, retailers are offering the same sales online with plenty of perks. "If you see something you like, check it out on your phone: Sometimes it can actually be just as cheap to buy it online, get it shipped and get it gift-wrapped for free," says Holmes. "Then you don't have to lug it around all day."

Don't fake being an early bird: Ultimately, Black Friday should be a silly, fun way to kick off the holiday season. If waiting in the dark for Best Buy's doors to open isn't your deal, sleep in and skip the door-buster deals. "It's more about the camaraderie — it's for a special kind of person who really enjoys that," says Holmes of the 5 a.m. openings. "Everybody else, just go when you want. There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

MONICA WEYMOUTH

Gift-list assist

Before you make your list and check it twice, head on over to Gifts.com and take the gift "personality quiz." It can help you figure out what to buy for your picky fashionista sister before you melt down at the Cinnabon stand.

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2005 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR — $0 Down** — 4 Wheel Drive, Leather, Wood Trim, Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, 3rd Row Seat, All Power — $11,900*

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CARFAX VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

black friday guide

Phone it in

Black Friday shopping: There's an app for that

▶ **CNET Scan and Shop:** Not sure about that digital camera? Use this app to scan the bar code of electronics, then read editor and user reviews.

▶ **shopkick:** Earn "kick points" just for walking in to popular Black Friday destinations including Macy's, Target, Best Buy and Old Navy. Then, cash them in for rewards including Starbucks drinks and iTunes gift cards.

▶ **iStoreHours:** This one's priceless on Black Friday: Download it to find out when your favorite stores open.

▶ **SnipSnap:** Don't want to carry around coupons? Use this app to snap pictures of offers, which are converted into mobile coupons that cashiers can scan. Or, browse their database for coupons that other users have uploaded.

▶ **RedLaser:** This top-rated app is like a shopping genie: Scan bar codes at major retailers for on-the-spot price comparisons. Then, buy that TV instantly on Amazon if the price is better.

▶ **Black Friday App:** Custom-built for this weekend's deals, this app from Dealnews.com lets you browse the "leaked" ads from major retailers, which you can then share with friends.

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Fuel your bargain hunting

No matter what you're looking for on Black Friday, you'll likely end up at Starbucks at some point. If you happen to purchase their Verismo System — think a Keurig coffee maker specially equipped to brew Starbucks espressos, lattes and coffees — Friday through Monday, they'll issue you a Starbucks Gold Card. Usually only earned after spending a fortune on foamy drinks, it scores you free refills on select beverages and other freebies. Also on our caffeinated wish-list: the new pixelated Rodarte Designer Tumbler, designed by fashion darlings Kate and Laura Mulleavy. METRO

The pixelated Rodarte Designer Tumbler, $12.95, now at Starbucks

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Get a head start on your Holiday shopping with your share of **$100,000 in Cash & Prizes!**
As a bonus, all unclaimed prizes will be redrawn on Sunday, November 25 at 6:30PM.

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THANKSGIVING THURSDAY	BLACK FRIDAY	SECOND SERVING SATURDAY
8PM–12 MIDNIGHT	9:30PM–1AM	9:30PM–1AM
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Leather, Sunroof, Keyless Entry, All Power, Alloy Wheels, CD

2009 Nissan Murano SL

All Wheel Drive, Leather, Sunroof, Fog Lights, Bluetooth

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Leather, Sunroof, NAVI, Heated Seats & Mirrors, CD Changer, Fog Lights

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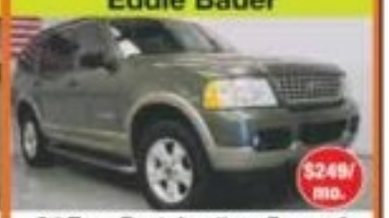
2008 Volvo S-40

Leather, Alloy Wheels, Keyless Entry, AM/FM/CD

2006 Toyota Sienna XLE

3rd Row Seat, Alloy Wheels, Luggage Rack, Fog Lights

2006 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer

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• FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 7 PM
Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter & Paul, Philadelphia
• SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 7 PM
Nassau Christian Center, Princeton, NJ
• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 4 PM
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Black Friday: There's an app for that

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▶ **RedLaser:** This top-rated app is like a shopping genie: Scan bar codes at major retailers for on-the-spot price comparisons. Then, buy that TV instantly on Amazon if the price is better, or get the store to match the online offer.

▶ **Black Friday App:** Custom-built for this weekend's deals, this app from Dealnews.com lets you browse the "leaked" ads from major retailers, which you can then share with friends.

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$9,999

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Traction Control, Heated Mirrors, Alloy Wheels, Keyless Entry, AM/FM/CD/Sat Radio, Privacy Glass
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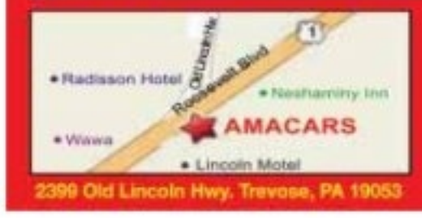
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YURR IN THE CITY

YOUR GUIDE TO CENTER CITY'S HOLIDAY EVENTS

November 22: 6ABC/Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day Parade. Celebrate the nation's oldest Thanksgiving Day parade. 6ABC.com

November 22 – December 24: Christmas Village at LOVE Park, 1500 Arch Street. Traditional European foods and homemade gifts and ornaments. PhilaChristmas.com

November 22 – January 1: Comcast Center Holiday Spectacular, Comcast Center, 1701 JFK Boulevard. In the lobby of Center City's tallest building, enjoy a high-tech, 15-minute show illuminating the building's LED wall and set to music. Free shows run on the hour, every hour, except weekdays at 5PM.

November 23 – December 31: Macy's Christmas Light Show, 1300 Market Street. For an animated light show, head to Macy's Center City in the historic Wanamaker Building. This Philly tradition features more than 100,000 LED lights dancing to the rich sounds of the Wanamaker organ with narration by Julie Andrews. Free shows run on the hour after 10AM daily. VisitMacysPhiladelphia.com

November 23 – December 31: Reading Terminal Market Holiday Railroad, 12th & Arch Streets. Kids and adults alike will delight in this 500 sq.ft. model railroad display with almost a third of a mile of track! Closed Christmas Day. ReadingTerminalMarket.org

November 23: Santa Express, 9th & Market Streets. Join the Gallery at Market East and SEPTA on a festive holiday caravan featuring Santa and his merry band of characters. The fun-filled parade ends in the Gallery's Center Court with activities to kickoff the holiday season. For stations and departure times, visit GalleryatMarketEast.com

November 28: Rittenhouse Square Tree Lighting, 5:00PM, Rittenhouse Square, 18th & Walnut Streets. RittenhouseRow.org

December 1: Visit with Santa at the KidsInCenterCity.com Saturday Playdate at the Market & Shops at the Comcast Center, 1701 JFK Blvd., 11AM – 1PM. KidsInCenterCity.com

Saturdays, December 1, 8, 15: Rittenhouse Row Holiday Celebration Saturdays, 18th & Walnut Street. Celebrate with Santa at TD Bank, strolling choirs, holiday surprises and in store specials. RittenhouseRow.org

December 5: City Hall Tree Lighting, LOVE Park, 1500 Arch Street. Mayor Michael Nutter lights the city's tree. PhilaChristmas.com

December 8 – 30: George Balanchine's The Nutcracker presented by the Pennsylvania Ballet. A timeless holiday classic. PABallet.org

December 15: Winterfest at Sister Cities Park, 18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 11AM - 2PM. Enjoy a visit with Santa, Karaoke sing-a-long with Frosty the Snowman, Cookie Decorating with Milk & Honey Café, a Holiday Treasure Hunt, seasonal arts & crafts and festive music provided by the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Young Performers Theater Camp Choir. Don't forget to bring your own camera. SisterCitiesPark.org

December 31: New Year's Eve Fireworks. Two shows at 6PM and Midnight. Penn's Landing, Columbus Boulevard and the Delaware River. DelawareRiverEvents.com

January 1: 2013 Philadelphia's Mummers Parade and Fancy Brigade Finale. New Year's Day is about celebrating, and there's no better place to fête than South Broad Street. Parade kicks off at 10AM. VisitPhilly.com

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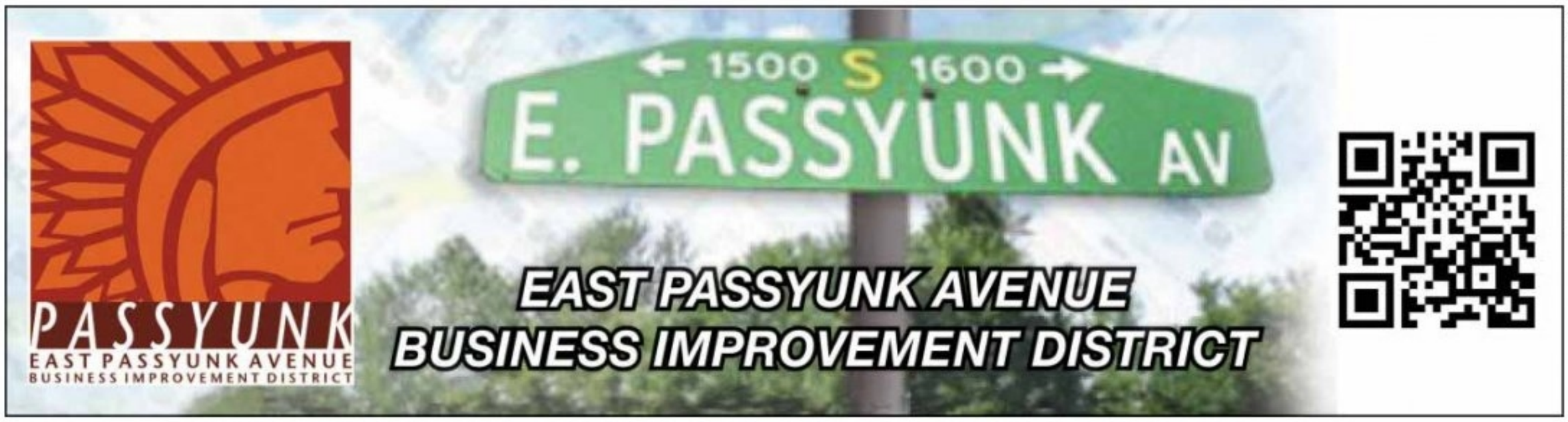

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Gifts for her

Make her extra merry

Terrariums, designer shades, zombie tarot cards: There's no way we missed someone here

MONICA WEYMOUTH

1. We love these new domed cake stands from the Martha Stewart Collection — even though we can sense them judging our messy icing. **$36-$115, at Macy's stores and at www.macys.com**

2. Stocking-stuffer all-stars: Aveda's Nourish-mint lip-plumping glazes in Nepali Berry and Himalayan Ice. **$18, www.aveda.com**

3. You know what's better than earmuffs? Electric blue earmuffs with built-in headphones. **$98, www.juicycouture.com**

4. Juicy Couture's sequined clutch is the perfect New Year's Eve date. **$248, www.juicycouture.com**

5. If Schwinn's Rendezvous bike isn't her favorite thing under the tree, a Metro staffer will show up to your house and eat said tree. Promise. **$650, www.schwinnbikes.com**

6. Made from hand-blown recycled glass, these teardrop air terrariums house our favorite kind of plants: the ones that don't need to be watered. **$69-$89, www.vivaterra.com**

7. It works on your mom, it works on your girlfriend: If you have no idea what to get her, something pretty and personalized will get you off the hook. NYC-based Erica Sara Designs will turn your sweet scribbles into a necklace with the Love Notes Collection. **$78-$138, www.ericasaradesigns.com**

8. Admittedly, these Ralph Lauren passport covers look best with tickets to the Caribbean tucked inside. **$48, www.ralphlauren.com**

9. Summer doesn't seem so far away through the lens of Dolce & Gabbana's Sicilian Baroque sunglasses. **$425, www.sunglasshut.com**

10. Cat-eyed, leopard-printed, golden serpent-adorned: If you're lucky, you have someone on your list who wants these oversize Roberto Cavalli shades. **$425, www.neimanmarcus.com**

11. We don't have a lot of nice things to say about Jessica Simpson, but we're pretty sure she smells amazing. Her Vintage Bloom perfume is fresh, fruity and floral. **$49-$65, at Macy's stores**

12. Chloe + Isabel's whimsical feather cuff will distract her from any missing diamonds this year. **$78, www.chloeandisabel.com**

13. Crabtree & Evelyn's Golden Fig Bubblebath fills the bath product quota with style. **$20, www.crabtree-evelyn.com**

14. Justin Bieber's Girlfriend hair mist smells like the cutest boy in school just smiled at you under a double rainbow. Buy one for your No. 1 Biebs fan and one for your purse. **$20, www.sephora.com**

Oddball pick

For the woman with everything, including a sick sense of humor: The Zombie Tarot Kit includes 78 cards depicting scenes of undead mayhem and a handy guide to the apocalypse. (Spoiler alert: You're screwed.) **$17, www.barnesandnoble.com**

black friday guide

Gifts for kids

The toys to talk about this year

Apparently, your childhood was missing an Anteater Bug Vac

MONICA WEYMOUTH

1. Meet Spider Spud, Mr. Potato Head's new friend who is — sorry, old bud — way cooler than a root vegetable with eyebrows. **$10, www.hasbrotoyshop.com**

2. Mattel's new Pinktastic collection took everything we loved about Barbie and rolled it around in pink glitter. **$20 each, at Kohl's stores and www.kohls.com**

3. The International Spy Museum's gift shop has some seriously cool gear for your budding Bond. On our wish list: The Spy Evidence Kit (with fingerprint powder!) and the invisible ink pen. **$22 (kit) and $10 (pen), www.spymuseumstore.org**

4. Dairy Queen's Blizzard Maker is like an Easy-Bake Oven without all the burning. **$30 at Target, Toys R Us and Walmart stores**

5. DwellStudio's adorable plushes look like they were plucked from the set of a Wes Anderson movie. **$40 each, www.dwellstudio.com**

6. Gak was disgusting when you were a kid. It still is — because goo that makes fart sounds will never go out of style. **$6, www.shop.nick.com**

7. Surefire sign a toy will be a hit with a little girl: It's called My Little Pony Twilight Sparkle Car. **$25, www.hasbrotoyshop.com**

8. Add a dose of unplugged whimsy with Moulin Roty's shadow puppets. **$18-$21, www.mysweetmuffin.com**

9. The Nat Geo WILD Anteater Bug Vac sucks up bugs for little ones to view in a removable belly chamber before safely releasing them. Seriously. Buy us one, please. **$27, www.ngstore.com**

Gifts for him

Best buys for your best boys

Look no further: We've got your gadgets, bow ties and foosball tables right here

MONICA WEYMOUTH

1. Made from stainless steel and iroko wood, Restoration Hardware's foosball table will make him believe in Santa again. **$3,995, www.restorationhardware.com**

2. Tivoli Audio's noise-canceling Radio Silenz headphones are your ears' true buds. **$160, www.tivoliaudio.com**

3. Native's Jimmy boots made PETA's Vegan Holiday Guide because, like all of the brands' shoes, they're 100 percent animal product-free. They make ours because they're ruby red. **$90, www.zappos.com**

4. There's nothing nerdy about Club Monaco's cheeky new bow-ties. **$60 each, www.clubmonaco.com**

5 & 6. The National Geographic Store is a little-known treasure chest of dude gifts. On our can't-fail list this year: The windproof, water-resistant lighter that laughs in the face of 75 mph gusts and the night vision monoculars. You're welcome. **$50 (lighter) and $199 (monoculars), www.ngstore.com**

7. Ray-Ban's so-classic aviators turned into a gadget just in time for holiday shopping: These 22-carat shades fold up for easy breezy traveling. **$495, www.sunglasshut.com**

8. Because you deserve a man who at least smells like James Bond. Launched for the 50th anniversary of the iconic spy, the 007 fragrance sold out overseas as soon as the Brits got a sniff. **$30-$40, at Kohl's stores**

Got a geek?

The nerds on your list just got lucky — for once.

For $50, Highland Titles will sell you one square foot of an estate in Glencoe Wood, Scotland — meaning your gift recipient can legally use the Scottish title of lord or lady (and yes, they'll get a title deed to prove it). Proceeds benefit work to preserve forests taken over by industry and farming. **www.highlandtitles.com**

A TED Live membership allows members to stream the TED and TEDGlobal conferences, annual gatherings where big thinkers present their world-changing ideas in 18 minutes or less. It's pricey at $995, but they're throwing in an iPad mini. **www.ted.com**

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Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI

THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

FIRE ANDY REID, THE SOONER THE BETTER

Andy Reid was fired yesterday, wasn't he? Maybe we just missed the announcement. Maybe the drone of his robotic voice was finally silenced, and the news just slipped right past us.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

No coach has deserved to be handed a pink slip more than Andy Reid does right now — and not just because his Eagles have lost six games in a row, or because his team has quit on him. No, Reid deserves to be dismissed as Eagles coach because of an incompetence that has become a danger to his own players.

With 1:58 remaining in a game he was trailing by 25 points, Reid exposed the most important player on the team, LeSean McCoy, to a vicious helmet-to-helmet hit that caused a concussion. Keeping McCoy in a lost game like that was ignorant, but not nearly as stupid as the bullheaded response that followed.

Quoted

Truth is, Andy Reid has no feel for his football team.

"We were trying to catch up and win the game," Reid said, several times. Even in his delicate mental state, he cannot believe that.

No sane person could. Running the ball in the last two minutes while down 25 points is not a recipe for success, in any league. It is the behavior of a man who has lost a grip on reality.

When asked if he had any regrets about using McCoy at that point in the game, Reid said the one word that should have sealed his doom: "No." At the time, McCoy was being taken to a hospital to determine the severity of his injury, and still Reid could not grasp the absurdity of his position. Even yesterday, at his weekly news conference, he expressed no second thoughts.

"I have a pretty good feel for our football team," he said, with a straight face.

The truth is, he has absolutely no feel for his football team. Nnamdi Asomugha is in freefall at cornerback, Kurt Coleman is lost in the defensive secondary, wide receivers Jeremy Maclin and DeSean Jackson are disappearing from the offense, the defensive line is underachieving spectacularly, the offensive line is a sieve, and now — thanks to Reid — McCoy is concussed.

If Andy Reid actually had a good feel for his team, he would have resigned yesterday, or Sunday, or last week, or last month. He has lost his team, has lost his city and will soon lose his job. In fact, it should have happened by now.

Owner Jeff Lurie made it clear before the season that 8-8 wouldn't be good enough this season. Well, if 8-8 is grounds for dismissal, what is 3-7? Surely, Lurie has been watching these weekly debacles. Surely, he has seen what we've been seeing. Surely, he knows what he has to do.

Andy Reid was fired yesterday, wasn't he?

*— **Angelo Cataldi** is the host of 94 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30-10 a.m.*

Manufacturers scramble to keep up with demand for powerful new diet formula

Consumers flood phone lines looking for SimplePure HCG weight loss solution

(Canoga Park,Ca) - Ground breaking developments are shaking up the weight loss industry. HCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin) is a hormone produced by the human body that helps the body use fat more efficiently. According to renowned endocrinologist, Dr. Albert T.W. Simeons, HCG effectively sends signals to the brain to release fat stores creating rapid weight loss. For years, HCG was only available by injection making it less available to the general public. Now, with its new advanced liquid formula, SimplePure Nutrition has made it available in sublingual drops. Suppliers have been authorizing extra shifts for employees in order to fill the rising demand for SimplePure's proprietary formula. The makers of SimplePure HCG have set up a toll free national hotline for dieters in immediate need. For a limited time, they are giving away a free bottle so consumers can experience the rapid weight loss themselves before purchasing. The offer is only good while supplies last so the manufacturer suggests calling the hotline immediately to secure the free supply.

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Phone - (215) 423-4000

Property contained in the following units will be sold on NOVEMBER 26, 2012 auction at 11:00 AM to the highest bidder to satisfy the owners lien for rent under 73 p.s. 1901 et. seq. Auction is with reserve, 21st Century Self Storage reserves the right to set the minimum bids and refuse bids. CASH ONLY. Contents must be removed within 24 hours.

A104	Matos, Jose	J938	Ross, Sybil	M185	Serrano Soto, Santos Joel
A105	Perez, Juan	K105	Arroyo, Pedro	P404	Wright, Quanda I
D303	Johnson, Shyheta	K119	Mckinney, Edwina	S183	Smith, Clarence J.
F521	Robinson, Takida	M104	Diaz, Jeryka Lyn	T817	Javier, Victor
J910	Candelaria, Julio	M137	Flemings, Daphne	T849	Miller, Sophia Maria

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Unit 0107	Shakina A. Logan	Sofa, Mattress, Box Spring	Unit 2137	Karla A. Milner	Totes, Washing Machine, Mattress
Unit 0121	Vanessa Bruce	Totes, Box Spring, Mattress, Boxes, Tools	Unit 2254	Crystal Lynn McFadden	Sofa, Boxes, Bags, Toys
Unit 0146	Brazil Nelson	Clothing	Unit 3019	Earline Powell	Boxes
Unit 0180	Rosalind Miller	Bags, Stereo	Unit 3025	Ruby Carpenter	Toys, Bags, Lamps
Unit 0189	Natasha Madison	Sofa, Boxes, Bags, Boxes,Toys	Unit 3109	Sharon Mitchell	Bed, Suitcase
Unit 1110	Amadou Traore	Sofa, Suitcases	Unit 3114	James Richard Fife	Fish Tank, Books, Speakers
Unit 1127	Laron L. Hilliard	Boxes, Dresser, Speakers	Unit 3073	Staceyann Wilson	Bags, Box Spring, Mattress
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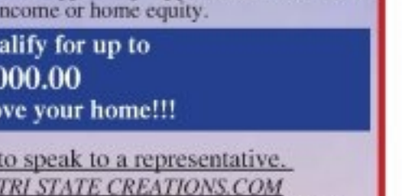
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Bynum is damaged goods

Opinion

Andrew Bynum has not played, is not playing and may never play for the Sixers. The big question is, who is to blame for one of the biggest local sports fiascos in recent memory?

What we can say with absolute certainty is that the Sixers received damaged goods in their megatrade. After a busy weekend for the quirky center, it is clear that Bynum has injured both of his brittle knees — the second problem surfacing after he went bowling. Yes, bowling. He hasn't practiced yet, but he has bowled.

Of course, the Sixers tried to hide the bowling incident because telling the truth is simply not in the DNA of any of our sports franchises. They constantly preach their love for the fans, and then go to extremes to deceive them. ESPN had to break a story that the team had a responsibility to report first. Only after the news came out did Bynum confirm the story.

So what's the truth in this Bynum travesty? The most likely scenario is that the Lakers suckered the new Sixer owners. Players with healthy knees don't go to Germany for experimental treatments, or have lubricant shot into them. Bynum had both right after the trade.

It's possible that the team doctors blew it when they examined him before the deal became official. This many setbacks cannot happen without a serious preexisting condition. Knowing the eagerness of the new owners, though, I find it more likely that the front office ignored the grim prognosis.

Fortunately, Sixers fans are not as naive as the new owners. Tickets to Sixer games were selling for 40 cents apiece on Stub Hub. The Andrew Bynum era isn't starting well. In fact, so far it has been a gutter ball.

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New low for Miami owner

On the current list of despicable owners, one man stands alone at the top. His name is Jeff Loria — not to be confused with Jeff *Lurie*. It would be libelous to confuse the Eagles owner with the outrageous man who runs the Marlins.

Less than a year after opening the humongous Marlins Park, funded with more than half a billion in taxpayer dollars, Loria ordered a drastic reduction in payroll that led to the trade of Josh Johnson, Mark Buehrle and Jose Reyes. Loria's pledge to spend whatever it took to draw big crowds was a blatant lie.

Miami is a terrible baseball town — always has been, always will be. But baseball deserves better than Loria, a rich art dealer who has shown his greatest talent is flim-flamming the public. After the trade, he had the gall to refuse questions, telling reporters: "Not today, boys. You haven't figured it out yet? I'm not going to figure it out for you."

Loria is very lucky that he doesn't own a franchise here because it wouldn't take us long to "figure it out" that he is a contemptible leech who should be expelled.

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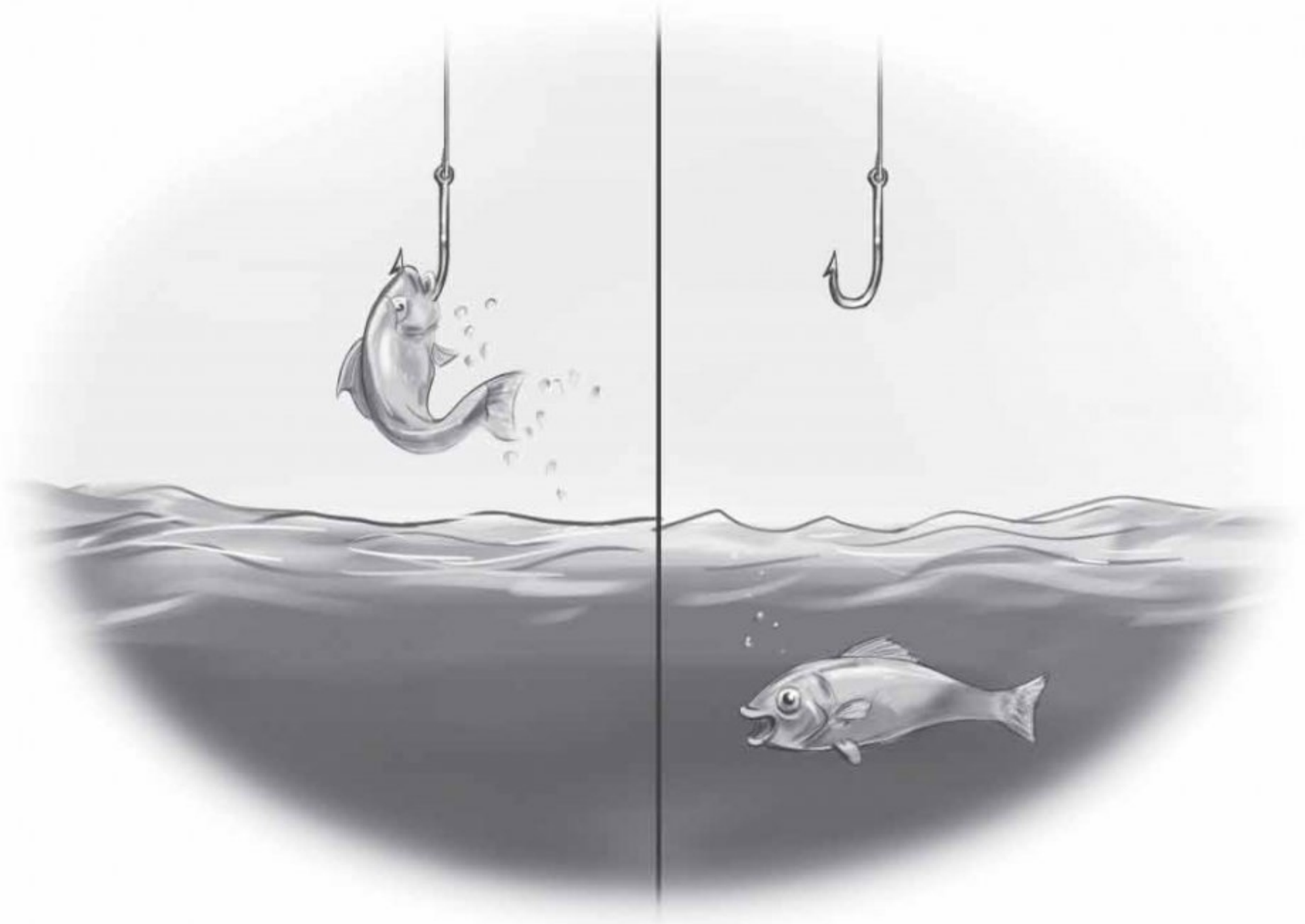

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advice

After the party, it's the hotel lobby And that's where things get real Jacob Tomsky's irreverent new memoir 'Heads in Beds' chronicles the all-work, no-sleep, but never dull hotelier lifestyle and the innermost workings of high-end hotels Five-star tips for your next check-in

GRATUITOUS ADVICE FOR A GREAT HOTEL STAY

▶ You don't have to pay for room service to have a good time. Jacob Tomsky tells us how. And remember: Always tip.

GOODSHOOT

If "service is about minimizing negatives and creating the illusion of perfection," what are some ways hotels cater to a vacationer's fantasies?

In a hotel, you essentially have servants — people who get you things, clean things for you. Invisibility is also an element. You go out to get lunch and magically when you come back everything's perfect; there's a feeling of luxury that comes from not seeing who's working for you. And extra amenities — lint rollers, deodorants, slippers — there are so many things hotels have to make you feel at home, but those aren't things you actually have at home.

Tip, pg. 73: Don't get too comfortable. *"Messiness looks like trash to housekeepers."*

How might you persuade a guest to take advantage of the hotel experience?

Make a connection with the front-desk agent or doorman and anytime you enter the lobby, they'll call you by name and ask if you need anything. Take bell service so you don't have to deal with your luggage. Indulge in movies and the minibar. [Disputing these charges] is pretty much a victimless crime; hotels pay a set rate for cable. And there are ways to avoid markups. If you want room service, but it's like $49 for a burger, call the front desk or get online: Many restaurants deliver to hotels. Call room service and say, "I'm going to eat in my room, can you send up plates and silverware?" You'll get your opulent setup — they might charge you a small fee — and then eat take-out.

Tip, pg. 32: Watch plenty of porn. *"The systems have changed, and [hotel staff] can no longer see the movie titles [or] have access to your specific fetishes."*

What's the tipping standard for a hotel?

The rock bottom for bellmen and doormen is $2 a bag. I also think going under $5 is a bad idea; give $5 to the doorman and $10 to the bellman. It's important to have them on your side (obviously, with access to your personal items). If you're checking in and you have no cash, there is an ATM around. And not having change sounds like a horrible excuse. Some people feel weird about tipping; that's one thing I'd like to get rid of. I remember I was walking through a hotel lobby and this lady was like, "I want to thank you for what you did for me." I still have no idea who she was and I'm pretty sure I didn't help her, but she gave me a dollar, so I said, "Thank you." That's when I knew I was a full-on hustler [laughs]. It's not uncomfortable [to accept tips] for little bits of service. You look bad if you don't tip, but you don't look bad if you try to tip.

Tip, pg. 53: Take home the embroidered bathrobe. *"Once you've dropped money on a houseman, anything his department has to offer is yours for the taking."*

Any advice for solo travelers?

If you have a doorman [at your hotel], that guy's like the ambassador to the 20-block radius. Introduce yourself. Don't talk their ear off; the doorman's not really going to be your friend, especially during a two-night stay if you've never been there before. But he will help you find your way around. Ask questions and then tip small amounts for the information.

Tip, pg. 105: You don't have to be so self-sufficient. *"In case you didn't know: hotels provide pillows. It's a standard hotel worker pet peeve to see BYOP guests."*

What are some key words guests should use to get on the good side of hotel staff?

Start sentences with "I understand." Like, "I understand that you are really busy and there are not a lot of rooms available, but if there is something …" Just be aware that there's a huge difference between demanding and requesting. Using those words means that "I understand that I am not guaranteed what I am about to ask for."

Tip, pg. 42: Complain thoughtfully. *"Before approaching any employee, try to pinpoint exactly what the problem is ... and then, if possible, what solution would make you feel satisfied."*

GINA ANGELOTTI
gina.angelotti@metro.us

Q&A

JAMES SLATER

▶ Tomsky

How has "being all things to all people" affected your life outside of hotels?

I've learned to be a chameleon. Being able to read people and adapt myself to them for our mutual benefit is a life skill. There's no reason not to alter your personality just a little bit based on the person you're dealing with. That's called being polite.

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